

SUPPOSING:—

(Some Administrative Records Reviewed)

JUST suppose the cases were reversed and Liberal Ministers were now in power and things are as they are. Imagine what the Conservative press and Messrs. Borden, Rogers, Crothers et al would say:—

Supposing **SIR WILFRID LAURIER** had formed an alliance with the Nationalists of Quebec, declared that unless Parliament gave three Dreadnoughts to the Admiralty, he would appeal to the country and then had gone quietly away to the seashore.

Supposing **HON. W. S. FIELDING**, Minister of Finance had brought down appropriations last session aggregating \$250,000,000, and had practically doubled the expenditure in two years. Supposing he had given a charter to **LA BANQUE INTERNATIONALE** after a memorandum of the Treasury Board had set forth reasons why a charter should not be granted. Supposing he had consented to a straight gift of \$15,000,000, to Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann, had then gone off to enjoy himself for two months in Europe, and had returned with Sir William Mackenzie on a Mackenzie and Mann steamer, as did **HON. W. T. WHITE**.

Supposing **HON. WM. PATTERSON**, as Minister of Customs, had sold his biscuit factory to the Government for marine works as did **HON. J. D. REID** in the case of his starch factory at Prescott.

Supposing **HON. FRANK OLIVER**, as Minister of the Interior, had given away to a prominent Liberal politician in Prince Albert a home-stead worth \$375,000.

Supposing **HON. GEO. P. GRAHAM**, as Minister of Railways had degraded the National Transcontinental Railway and had raised rates on the Intercolonial Railway at the same time that the people of Western Canada were applying to the Railway Commission for a decrease of railway rates.

Supposing **HON. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX**, as Postmaster General, had suddenly placed with a newly organized company of Liberal politicians an order for mail bag locks at one dollar apiece, sufficient to supply the department for a lifetime.

Supposing **HON. WM. PUGSLEY**,

as Minister of Public Works, had increased in two years the vote for public buildings from Eight Millions to Twenty-eight Millions per year and the Total Expenditure of his department on capital and current account from Twelve to Forty Eight Millions; or supposing that he had been the prime mover in instituting brute force methods in Parliament and had substituted the "gag" for the constitutional rights of free speech.

Supposing **SIR FREDERICK BORDEN**, as Minister of Militia, had suddenly jumped expenditures for Militia purposes from less than Seven Millions per year to over Twelve Millions and had started to scatter Drill Halls all over the country whether there happened to be militia units at the chosen centres or not; supposing as did the present Minister of Militia, he had taken Sir Ian Hamilton at the country's expense to a Liberal picnic and pinned a Liberal badge on his breast; or had travelled across Canada by a special military train and charged the country \$40,000, therefor; or had gone to England to again witness the British army manoeuvres and taken 23 officers with their wives and lady private secretaries with him.

Supposing **HON. MACKENZIE KING**, as Minister of Labour, had failed to apply the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act to the Vancouver Island miners' strike, had merely made a cursory and belated personal investigation, reported failure of his attempt at personal intervention, had a business associate and personal friend accompany him at the country's expense and had left his friend to make a formal report, at a large fee per day, as to why the militia had to be called in and then had gone blandly off on a two month's holiday jaunt to England.

Supposing—but what's the use continuing the analogy? The howl that would be going up from the Conservative ranks if Liberal Ministers had been guilty of one half the sins of omission and commission already accumulated by the present ministry, would even on the few counts just noted, be loud enough to spread over at least two general elections.

POSSIBLE NEW BOOKS.

"How to Win Elections",—a breezy autobiographical sketch by **HON. ROBERT ROGERS**, author of "The Macdonald By-Election, a treatise on the beneficial effects of jail for election opponents," "The Prince Albert Homestead" a manual of "Political Real Estate manipulation", "Richelieu, a French Canadian Romance of railway exploitation," "Public Works and Their Effects upon Voters", etc. Mr. Roger's latest work shows that he still retains his old grip on devious electioneering methods.

"How to Conquer the Boers", by **COL. HON. SAM HUGHES**, author of "Me and Dick Turpin (with Lantern Slides)," "The Effect of Gold Lace upon Electors," "Secrets of Free Advertising", "Dry Camps for the Militia," etc. In this work, while Col. Hughes does not show any insight into military work, he exhibits considerable knowledge on how to bluff the public. From the Tory point of view it should prove a valuable treatise.

"Civil Service Reform", by **HON. L. P. PELLETIER** and **HON. DR. J. D. REID**. Illustrated with fine plates showing how a postmaster when dead four years can become an offensive partisan. This work contains invaluable advice to politicians as to the easiest method of getting rid of Civil Servants in order to make room for partisan supporters. In the collaboration by **HON. DR. REID** some useful advice is given on how to dispose of idle property to the government at a profit.

"Synchronizing in Politics" by **HON. W. T. WHITE**. This is a valuable little brochure in Mr. White's most racy style. It shows how by synchronizing his politics with current events he was able to secure a cabinet position. Departing from the personal vein, hints are given as to how bank charters and railway subsidies may be used to assist both the government and its friends.

"Labour and How to Avoid It," by **HON. T. W. CROTHERS**. This is apparently the journal of a political gamester, whose love of office overcame his friendship for the proletariat. Mr. Crothers in this tasty little volume gives some valuable hints as to how to dodge the most obvious of public duties and the enforcement of labor laws when they discommodate influential friends. The introduction to this volume has been written by the **RT. HON. R. L. BORDEN** in which he discusses the necessity of occasionally sending ministers on holiday trips to England in order to keep them out of trouble.

NOTES.

The Militia Department estimates the cost of **HON. COL. SAM HUGHES** trip to England, with his entourage of officers, officers' wives and private secretaries, at \$20,000. It will be charged up to "annual drill."

Civil Service Reform advances apace. **HON. BRUNO NANTAL** has appointed the law partner of his son-in-law to be assistant Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue with prospective promotion to the Deputy Ministership in a few months. **MR. J. U. VINCENT**, the new appointee was the unsuccessful Conservative-Nationalist candidate in Russell at the last election.

"Every man has his Price"—as the Minister of Labor said after getting his law partner into another Department of State as "a special commissioner" at a fat fee. Mr. Price is now working on retainers from **HON. FRANK COCHRANE**, **HON. T. W. CROWTHERS** and **HON. DR. ROCHE**.

One of the principal troubles of the Ministry this summer has been that there have not been enough private cars to go round—despite the purchase of two new ones for **HON. ROBERT ROGERS** and the **HON. COL. SAM HUGHES**. With only three or four Ministers in the Capital at a time, and the rest on tour the demand for Ministerial cars has exceeded the supply. More cars will have to be purchased.